



Voting Information News

July 2006 Vol. 16, No. 7

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Voting Assistance Officers

"To Do" This Month:

☑ This issue of the VIN answers many questions raised by absentee voters. Share these articles with the citizens you assist.

☑ Be sure to visit www.fvap.gov and navigate through the State Election Websites (select State Election Sites) in order to ascertain primary candidate data along with pertinent state election information. Aside from providing up to date specifics regarding candidates from different states, these websites are a great tool for VAOs when assisting UOCAVA voters.

☑ Visit www.fvap.gov and check out the frequently asked questions section of our website. Print out the FAQs and distribute them to voters in your organization in order to provide them with information during the Primary Election season.

☑ Don't forget to prepare for the upcoming **Overseas Voters Week** (July 2 - 8, 2006) where you can hold non-partisan absentee voting drives.

A roundup of voting news from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters and those who assist voters.

Additional Frequently Asked Questions During the Primary Season

1. Am I Registered to Vote?

To check the status of your voter registration, contact your State or Local Election Office. The Federal Voting Assistance Program website has a listing of all the State Election Office's websites. Simply visit our website at www.fvap.gov and select the State Election Site. Once at this homepage, you'll find a great deal of election information including how to contact your local election office.

Seven states, as well as the **District of Columbia**, and **Puerto Rico**, allow you to check your voter registration status online. The states providing this online service are: **Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia**. Visit this website for more specific information on registering in these states: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/stregissites.html>

2. Where am I registered to vote?

In order to determine where you are currently registered to vote, contact the election office where you last resided in the United States. If you are unsure of the county you live in, visit www.fvap.gov and select "What is My County".

3. How do I change where I'm registered to vote?

In order to change the jurisdiction where you are registered to vote you must change your residency. Changing one's residency requires that you are physically present in that location and have the intent to remain a resident.

Whenever you move into a new county or state, you should always contact the Local Election Office to inform them that you have changed your address. Communicating with your Local Election Office is the best way to help them help you. You can also signify that you have a new address by filling out block 6 in the FPCA. If you have previously registered to vote in a jurisdiction other than the one in which you are applying, indicate "previously registered in (location)". In order to obtain more information regarding this procedure you can visit www.fvap.gov and select "State by State Instructions".

4. What do I do if I haven't received my ballot but I sent FPCA in on time?

One of the best ways to check on the status of your FPCA is to contact your Local Election Office. Any questions regarding FPCA status should be addressed to them. To find out when your state mails out ballots, refer to the *2006-07 Voting Assistance Guide* (found online at www.fvap.gov, select "State by State Instructions"). If election day is drawing near, use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote (see page 3).

5. Do I need a notary on my FPCA?

Out of the 50 states, the four U.S. territories and the District of Columbia, 50 do not require a notary on the FPCA. The five that **DO** require a notary on the FPCA are: American Samoa, Michigan (only applies to civilians), Minnesota, Puerto Rico, and Vermont. In order to check the status of your state's rules regarding notary requirements go to: <http://www.fvap.gov/vao/notaryreqts.html>

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Share your good ideas! Send your good ideas and lessons learned to your Department of State or Service Voting Action Officer. (Contact information on page 3)

"To Do" This Month

(continued):

☑ This drive is an excellent time to get the word out, as U.S. citizens gather for Independence Day activities. Also **Armed Forces Voter Week** will be in effect from September 3 through September 9, 2006. Finally, **Absentee Voters Week** will be held from the 8th of October through the 14th.

☑ If you have not yet registered as a Voting Assistance Officer with the Federal Voting Assistance Program please go through either the e-learning training program located on www.fvap.gov or feel free to contact our toll free number and request the training CDs that are now available.

NOTE: The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Federal Government, United States Department of Defense or the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. The Federal Voting Assistance Program does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations.

Frequently Asked Questions During Primary Season (continued)

6. Can I Be Registered In Two Different States?

Voting rights for the state you claim apply when you can provide proof of residence, ie: driver's license, water/gas bill, etc. (Each state's requirements are different, check with your state's election board to see what they require). You may only have one legal residence at a time, but Uniformed Service personnel and their family members may change residency each time they are transferred to a new location. If you continue to receive voting materials from your old county, notify the election board to remove you from their local voter list.

7. What are the implications for registering where I'm stationed?

Exercising your right to vote in elections **for Federal offices only** does not affect the determination of residence or domicile for purposes of any tax imposed under Federal, state or local law. Voting in an election **for Federal offices only** may not be used as the sole basis to determine residency for the purposes of imposing state and local taxes. If you claim a particular state as your residence and have other ties with that state *in addition to voting*, then you may be liable for state and local taxation, depending upon that particular state law. Consult your legal counsel for specific questions or situations.

8. How do I get information about voting and upcoming elections?

If you have questions about where or how to vote, what forms to use or state specific regulations, consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* available in print form from FVAP or your Voting Assistance Officer, or its online version available at www.fvap.gov

The Democratic and Republican parties have organized groups in many countries throughout the world, and information may be obtained by contacting their umbrella organizations:

Democrats Abroad, (202) 863-8103,

www.democratsabroad.org,
Republicans Abroad International,
(202) 608-1423,
www.republicansabroad.com

FVAP also offers the **Voting Information Center (VIC)** that provides information on elections and recorded messages from U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives and state Governors. Callers may connect directly to the office of U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor or their chief state election official through the VIC. The VIC also provides direct access to Service Voting Action Officers during normal business hours in the U.S. Telephone numbers:

- Commercial 1-800-438-VOTE (Collect calls not accepted).
- DSN 425-1343. DSN use is authorized for all military and family members.
- Toll free numbers are available for over 60 countries (Consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* or www.fvap.gov for a full listing)

9. How do I get a FPCA?

In Person: You can obtain a cardstock version of the FPCA through Voting Assistance Officers at military installations or at U.S. embassies/consulates.

Electronic: There is an online version of the FPCA (OFPCA), and it is accepted by all states and territories except American Samoa and Guam. The form is available on the FVAP's website at <http://www.fvap.gov/pubs/onlinefPCA.html> in PDF format and can be filled in on-line, printed out, signed, dated, placed in an envelope with proper postage and then mailed to the appropriate Local Election Official (LEO). The form requires Acrobat Reader 6 or higher.

Having trouble? If you are still having trouble obtaining a FPCA, feel free to contact FVAP's Ombudsman service at 800-438-8683.

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Additional Frequently Asked Questions During Primary... (continued)

10. What's the difference between a FPCA and a FWAB?

A FPCA is a **Federal Post Card Application** (Standard Form 76) that should be filled out and sent to your local election official every year and whenever you change addresses, in order to ensure that you receive the necessary ballots with adequate time to vote through the mail. The FPCA is used to register, and/or request an absentee ballot. Postage is paid if mailed within U.S. postal system, including APO and FPO addresses and U.S. Embassies and Consulates. If mailed in a foreign postal system, international airmail postage must be affixed. Some states allow the electronic transmission (fax and/or email) of FPCAs, consult the *Voting Assistance Guide* for state or territory specific procedures.

A FWAB is a **Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot** (Standard Form 186) that is used as a backup "emergency" ballot in the case the regular state ballot does not reach the UOCAVA voter in adequate time for voting. It contains both a write-in area and a special security envelope, and the same postage/mailling conditions apply as for the FPCA. FWABs are available through Voting Assistance Officers at military installations or at U.S. embassies/consulates (also available online at www.fvap.gov). Generally, an absent uniformed services member or a citizen outside the

United States can only use the FWAB under very specific conditions:

THE ABSENT UNIFORMED SERVICES VOTER MUST:

- Be absent from his/her voting residence;
- Have applied for a regular ballot early enough so the request is received by the appropriate local election official not later than the State deadline; or the date that is 30 days before the general election;
AND
- Have not received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

THE CITIZEN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES MUST:

- Be located outside the United States (including APO/FPO addresses);
- Have applied for a regular ballot early enough so the request is received by the appropriate local election official not later than the State deadline; or the date that is 30 days before the general election;
AND
- Have not received the requested regular absentee ballot from the state.

For additional information about the FPCA and the FWAB refer to chapter two of the *2006-07 Voting Assistance guide* (available online at www.fvap.gov).

Voting Action Officers

Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

Chief VAO: Mr. Jack Markey, **tel:** (202) 736-4937, **fax:** (202) 647-6201, **Email:** votinginfo@state.gov

Service Voting Action Officers

U.S. Dept. of the Army: Mr. James Davis **tel:** (703) 325-4530 **DSN:** 221-4530; **fax:** (703) 325-4532
DSN fax: 221-4532, **Email:** davisj@hoffman.army.mil,
https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm

U.S. Dept. of the Navy: LT David Truman **tel:** 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu),
fax: (901) 874-6825, **DSN fax:** 882-6825,
Email: vote@navy.mil, **http://www.cni.navy.mil/NavyVote/Index.html**

U.S. Dept. of the Air Force: Mr. John Lowrance **tel:** (210) 565-5000, **toll free:** 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from menu), **DSN** 665-5000; **fax:** (210) 565-2543, **DSN fax:** 665-2543;
Email: afpc/dpsfvotingpgmdlist@randolph.af.mil; **http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/votefund/**

U.S. Marine Corps: Mr. David E. James **tel:** (703) 784-9511, **DSN:** 278-9511; **fax:** (703) 784-9823,
DSN fax: 278-9823; **Email:** david.e.james@usmc.mil
https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/MR/Personnel/Voting

U.S. Coast Guard: LTJG Dan Owen **tel:** (202)-267-1709, **fax:** (202) 267-4823;
Email: dowen@comdt.uscg.mil,
http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm

All of the above can also be reached through the DoD Voting Information Center and the FVAP Website.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC
20301-1155

PHONE:
(703) 588-1584
DSN 425-1584

FAX
(703) 696-1352
DSN 426-1352

VOTING INFORMATION
CENTER (VIC):
(703) 588-1343
DSN 425-1343

TOLL FREE (VIC and FVAP
staff member):
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

Visit our website for
international toll-free phone
and fax numbers.

EMAIL:
vote@fvap.ncr.gov

Comments or suggestions on
this newsletter are welcome.

Website:
www.fvap.gov

Vote!

From the States ...

NORTH DAKOTA:

As of May 22, 2006 North Dakota residents that are covered by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)* may vote in Primary Elections using the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot even if they have not yet submitted a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA).

The FWAB submitted by the voter will be simultaneously considered the voter's application and their voted ballot. This ballot also allows a qualified person to vote for all the offices and measures that would appear on their precinct ballot if they were voting in person.

SOUTH CAROLINA:

The Governor of **South Carolina** recently signed into law four changes affecting UOCAVA voters.

- UOCAVA voters are now required to provide their social security number on the FPCA.
- South Carolina Election Offices will now mail out ballots at least 45 days prior to the election.
- Voters may now receive blank ballots via email or fax under any circumstances.
- Voters may now return the voted ballot via email or fax to the County Election Office.

Upcoming Primaries

July Primaries:

Georgia – July 18
Oklahoma – July 25

August Primaries:

Kansas – August 1
Tennessee – August 3
Colorado – August 8
Connecticut – August 8
Michigan – August 8
Missouri – August 8
Nevada – August 15
Alaska – August 22
Wyoming – August 22

September Primaries:

Guam – September 2
Florida – September 5
Virgin Islands – September 11
Arizona – September 12
Delaware – September 12
District of Columbia-September 12
Maryland – September 12
Minnesota – September 12
New Hampshire – September 12
New York – September 12
Rhode Island – September 12
Vermont – September 12
Wisconsin – September 12
Massachusetts – September 19
Washington – September 19
Hawaii – September 23

Moving? Send an FPCA to notify your local election official. Also, send us an email so that you and your replacement can continue receiving this *newsletter*.

Federal Voting Assistance Program
Department of Defense
1155 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1155



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